

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SEASONAL FLOOD OUTLOOK FOR CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

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PA Spring Flood Outlook
February 19th, 2016



Factors to Consider for Winter and Spring Flooding

- Recent Rainfall
- Snow Conditions
- River Ice
- Streamflow Conditions
- Soil Moisture Conditions
- Ground Water
- Reservoir Conditions
- Future Weather



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Recent Precipitation

-NEAR AVERAGE-

- Active weather pattern last couple weeks
 - Complicated precipitation forecasts
 - Snow and Rain across the region
- Precipitation observed and departures



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Snow Conditions

-BELOW AVERAGE-

Snow coverage continues to be below average for the middle of February. The snow that affected the southern half of the state last month has largely melted. Snow across northern PA and the higher elevations have been much below average so far this winter.

Current Snow Depths for PA

Current Snow Analysis

Snow Data for Susquehanna and Delaware Basins



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River Ice Conditions

-BELOW AVERAGE-

- Ice on the West Branch and Main Stem Susquehanna is spotty
- Fluctuating temperatures this winter have limited ice formation

Regional River Ice Reports



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Stream Flow Conditions

-ABOVE AVERAGE-

- Streamflows have increased with recent snowmelt and rainfall

Lastest Streamflow Conditions



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Soil Moisture Conditions

-NEAR AVERAGE-

Current Soil Moisture Maps
Palmer Drought Severity Index



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Ground Water Conditions

-NEAR AVERAGE-

Ground water levels are all close to average across central PA

[Latest PA Ground Water Map](#)



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Reservoir Conditions

- Reservoirs storage levels across the state are reported to be close to average

USACE reservoir levels



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Future Weather Forecasts

- Active weather pattern forecast to continue
- Continue to monitor local weather forecasts

[NWS State College Web Page](#)
[Weather Prediction Center](#)
[Climate Prediction Center](#)



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Spring Flood Outlook Summary

- Characterize chances of spring flooding as “Average”
- Winter snowpack below average
 - Snow melt a minor player right now
- Recent precipitation has raised stream flows
 - Elevated stream flows make region more susceptible to flooding if heavy rain falls
- Ice Jam flood potential low and expected to stay that way for the rest of the season
- Spring flood potential depends on heavy rains
 - No significant heavy rainfall events expected in the next 7-10 days



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Please report any flooding to your local NWS Office as soon as possible

- ◆ **NWS Cleveland**
 - ◆ weather.gov/cleveland
- ◆ **NWS Pittsburgh**
 - ◆ weather.gov/pittsburgh
- ◆ **NWS State College**
 - ◆ weather.gov/statecollege
- ◆ **NWS Binghamton**
 - ◆ weather.gov/binghamton
- ◆ **NWS Mount Holly**
 - ◆ weather.gov/philadelphia

